

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-4 and 8-15 are in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has further amended claim 1 to indicate that the cutting by the laser device creates microparticles of predefined dimensions. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 4, paragraph 3. This precise cutting by the laser to create microparticles of predefined dimensions is important because the microparticles can then be made as small as possible while still encompassing the digits necessary for identification.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-4 and 8-15 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
MICHAEL CLEARY - 1



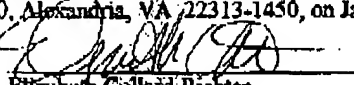
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 29, 2004.

  
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